

# GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

## DELIVERING FOR MICHIGAN WOMEN AND FAMILIES



Governor Whitmer has centered Michigan's women and families by pursuing policies that make a difference in their lives. She's made historic investments in K-12 schools without raising taxes and expanded healthcare to nearly 900,000 people. The Governor will continue finding ways to deliver meaningful change that makes a difference in the lives of women and families, including robust investments in childcare so every kid has an opportunity to succeed from day one and in infrastructure, so moms can drive to work, drop their kids off at school, or run errands without blowing a tire or cracking an axle.

### INVESTING IN EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE

- Made the largest investment in K-12 schools in state history—without raising taxes.
  - Closed the funding gap between schools, ensuring every school district has the same baseline funding: \$8,700 per student.
  - The dollars will go to newer textbooks, better gym equipment, and smaller class sizes—things to improve every student's in-school experience.
- Expanded access to free preschool for 22,000 more four-year olds through the high-quality, homegrown Great Start Readiness Program.
- Prioritized equity in education by dedicating more dollars to at-risk, English language learners, and special education students in all of her budgets ('20, '21, and '22).
- Tripled the number of literacy coaches in schools to help every child read by third grade.
- Settled lawsuit reaffirming every kid's constitutional right to literacy.
- Signed a record \$1.4 billion investment in federal childcare funding to keep your local childcare provider open and expand access to low or no-cost childcare for working families earning less than \$49,025 for a family of four.
- Led by example by enacting paid parental leave up to 12 weeks for state employees.
- Supported an expansion of the federal Child Tax Credit for nearly 2 million Michigan families thanks to leadership from the congressional delegation and the Biden administration.

### BUILDING ECONOMIC SECURITY

- Signed a package of bills to repeal the tax on essential menstrual products, including tampons, driving down costs and saving families from paying taxes on up to \$4,800 of spending over the course of a lifetime.
- Signed an Executive Directive to require equal pay for equal work in Michigan.
- Signed an Executive Directive to strengthen protections against discrimination in state employment, including for gender identity or expression and sexual orientation. This directive extended those protections to the employees of anyone doing business with the state too.
- Directed the Michigan Women's Commission to focus on building greater economic security for women and achieving gender equity.
- Awarded grants to community-based organizations to help women workers understand and exercise their rights and benefits in the workplace.



***"As Governor, I am committed to helping Michigan women pursue their potential by making progress on the kitchen-table issues and tackling challenges that impact their lives, from healthcare to childcare to wealth gaps and health gaps."***

***- Governor Gretchen Whitmer***

## FOCUSING ON WOMEN'S HEALTH

- Invested in Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies, addressing disproportionate racial impacts of maternal and infant mortality and ensuring moms have the support they need for healthy pregnancies, deliveries, and postpartum care.
- Extended Healthy Michigan to nearly 900,000 people and suspended the Medicaid work requirement that created barriers to coverage.
- Joined by the House Democratic caucus, called on the legislature to pass the Michigan Reproductive Health Act to guarantee individuals are free to make independent decisions about their own reproductive health. The legislation also includes a repeal of the state's 1931 abortion ban law, which hasn't been enforced since the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Roe v. Wade*.
- Established a policy that will guarantee critical medical resources and support to Department of Corrections' pregnant and post-partum prisoners and their newborns.

## ENSURING REPRESENTATION IN STATE GOVERNMENT

- Governor Whitmer's executive office has consistently employed 70% women with women in most leadership roles. Governor Whitmer's cabinet is over 50% female.
- Appointed more than 940 women to boards, commissions, and full-time positions. 45% of Whitmer appointees are women and 60% of those are women or people of color.
- Declared March as Women's History Month to honor the prominent activists of our past and recognize the women in Michigan who continue to break barriers.